

western cape scouter



April 2021



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editor's desk



It is with somewhat sadness that I take on the role of editor of the Western Cape Scouter. We wish our previous editor, Mauro Saporetti, all the best and thank him for getting the Western Cape Scouter up and running after the Cape Western Scouter ceased publication in 2008.

It is also with excitement that I take on the role of editor because:

- I get to read all sorts of interesting articles which (admission!) I may not always have religiously read in the past.
- Learn how to use Microsoft Publisher and working with graphics and
- Learn how to use the SCOUTS SA branding with the help of Natasha Kayle who is our National PR Manager and to whom I am indeed grateful.

Please do have a read and check out what has been happening in the Region in the last few months. Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and Rovers have been busy.

Nigel Forshaw- Editor Western Cape Scouter

fires and cooking badge course

The scouts were divided into three bases. Base 1, made conservation stoves, billy cans and cooked a chicken stew. Base 2, made coals and then a twist with an optional Vienna, clean up and hygiene. Base 3 all the theory, wood, fireplaces, fire safety, veld fires, setting a table, weights and measurements and tests. Lastly draw a menu with costs for a 8 member patrol.

Terrance Ievers - TS 1st Bothasig



regional commissioner's reflections

Reflecting on scouting in the region it strikes me just how active many members have been despite the COVID challenges. It is really encouraging to read of so many activities happening across the Region. The year has got off to a busy start reflecting the desire from our members to get out and do things.



We have many Service and Merit Awards and Commendations to give out at the Awards Evening on 22 April 2021. Thanks to all those committed leaders. Read also about Scout Braedon Powell's gallant life saving rescue and to Helderberg District's rapid numbers recovery post Lockdown and how the recently revived Scout Mountain Club has been getting scouts and leaders out into the mountains.

Our communities have really embraced the outdoors and weekends sees hikers and campers everywhere. A great opportunity to recruit new Scouts and their parents into our fun and adventure programmes, don't miss this opportunity for growth.

We congratulate 6th Rondebosch on winning the Regional Tonkin Trophy for excellent Scouting delivery as well as the National H V Marsh Award for their magazine's excellence in Journalism and Communication as also 1st Pinelands who won the exciting Rayner Trophy hiking competition for Senior Scouts.

We celebrate the growth of Scouting in Schools program which is now offered at 53 schools in the Metro.

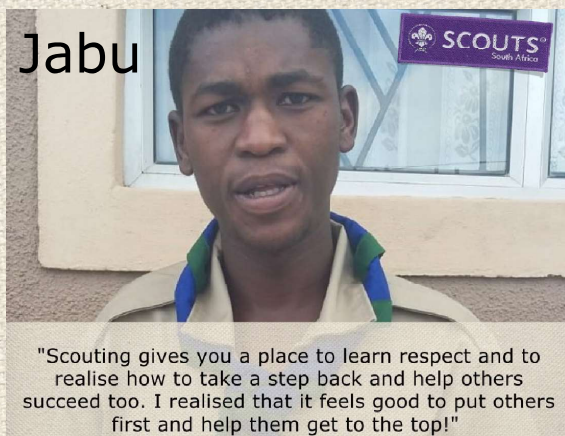
Lastly, we welcome Nigel Forshaw as the editor of Western Cape Scouter and wish Mauro Saporetti strength and well at this time of illness. Mauro did a great job initiating and editing our past editions.



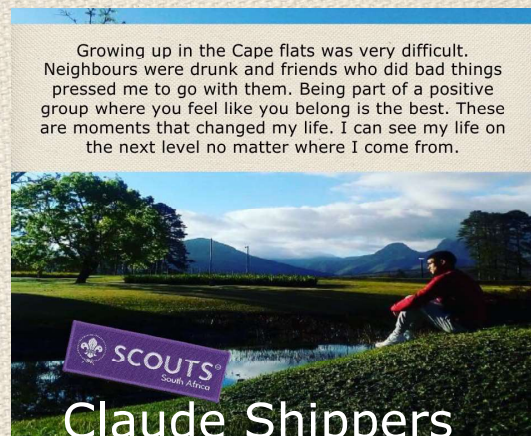
Enjoy the read, and be ready to take your scouting to new levels in 2021.

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

what has scouting done for me?



"Scouting gives you a place to learn respect and to realise how to take a step back and help others succeed too. I realised that it feels good to put others first and help them get to the top!"



Growing up in the Cape flats was very difficult. Neighbours were drunk and friends who did bad things pressed me to go with them. Being part of a positive group where you feel like you belong is the best. These are moments that changed my life. I can see my life on the next level no matter where I come from.

Claude Shippers

1st claremont meerkat launch

Our Den started on 14 November 2020 and we have met every week since then, even on Zoom in February. We now have 10 invested Meerkats and two recruits, with four qualified Scouters. Enthusiasm is high as we vary the meetings based on the Meerkat Trail, which is new to all of us. So far we have completed the Adventure, Entertaining, Keep Fit, Nature and Scientist badges in the Den and are busy with Community, Healthy Eating and First Aid. The Meerkats have amassed a variety of Interest badges including Bling, Cooking, Hiking, Little Frog Blue (Swimming), Little Camper, Collector and Technology.



Highlights of the past few months have been our visit to Keurboom Park where the Meerkats followed an Adventure trail with compasses and maps, taking part in the Den Mob where we made gifts for Health Care workers and learnt a Thank You song, and the special day, 14 February 2021, when our first seven Meerkats were invested online. Now one is going to be going up to Cubs!

Looking ahead, we are excited about our Den "Camp At Home Together" on 18 April 2021 and our Nature visit to Kildare Park on 8 May 2021. The Den will be participating in the City Nature Challenge and the National Meerkat Challenge. We are also looking forward to meeting other Meerkats in the Western Cape soon.

From a leader's perspective, we are pleased with the way the Den is running. We meet for 45 minutes on a Saturday morning. Each Meerkat has a parent/adult

present and there are always jobs for them to do. We get the impression parents enjoy the short time watching their children develop and play. Personally, I am very grateful for the immense support of our Group, especially Ian Web (GS) and David Knight (TS), and for the excellent training provided by SCOUTS SA.

Judith Bishop- Den Scouter



1st somerset west meerkat journey

1st Somerset West started their Meerkat journey with a really successful open day in October 2020. We had 10 prospective Meerkats arrive for a morning of fun.



We saw some fluctuations in numbers in the beginning, but are now steady at 10 invested Meerkats and 3 more being invested shortly. Our Meerkats have been extremely busy earning badges with most of them sporting no less than 3 badges each (such eager beavers!)



Some of the activities which they have been involved in include: plastic nurdle collection on a local beach, making sugar body scrubs and collecting marshmallow Easter eggs as a "thank you" to our frontline workers, tie-dying t-shirts, basic map work and so much more!



We have been very fortunate in that our parents are as keen as the Meerkats and enjoy the time they get to spend together (especially when they get to participate!) and we are looking forward to helping the Packs in our District grow as our first Meerkats are due to burrow up in just a few short months.

Valeska Gruenbaum—Assistant Den Scouter 1st Somerset West

scouting in schools

On the 9 February 2021, The Regional Commissioner of the Western Cape, Paddy Milner handed over the keys of the new Scouting in Schools vehicle to the Scouting in Schools Project.

With the expansion to almost 60 schools and a growing team a vehicle was needed to help visit the almost 60 schools who are part of the Scouting in Schools Programme in the Western Cape.

Ahmad Solomon - Project Leader Scouting in Schools



Scouting in School's interns undergoing training

braedon powell award



1st Muizenberg Scout, Braedon Powell, has been awarded the Cornwell Certificate which is awarded to Scouts who have "shown an above average devotion to duty, with courage and endurance".

In August 2020, the then 11-year-old Scout's vigilance prevented a potentially serious situation from developing. While at the beach with his family, Braedon noticed two gentlemen playing in the surf on an inflatable mattress. The men were being slowly blown out to sea by a gentle offshore breeze.

Braedon grabbed a knee-board and paddled 150m-200m out to sea.

He informed them of the potential seriousness of their situation.

After discovering that neither of them could swim, he managed to calm them down, got them to lie down in a stable position, and used the nose of his knee-board to push them safely back to shore.



rayner trophy

Initially the going was relatively easy as we proceeded through the damp cool fog on a beautiful vlakte south west of Kromriver Dome (1381m) . Due to the easy terrain the bases were kept far apart to make up for potential time that could be lost in negotiating the long ridge down towards the finish.

As we rounded the southern aspect of Kromriver Dome the fog lifted as we proceeded east into a small valley where a particularly refreshing mountain stream provided some awesome pools in which to conduct a water rescue base. The fog rolled in again as we proceeded down the valley to the edge of a precipice where a splicing base was held and the stream plunged down into an extremely dark ravine.

From the splicing base we traversed to the right hoping the fog would lift so we could locate the top of the Cascades ridge. The path at this stage was extremely faint and only marked by a few suitably placed cairns. As we proceeded to where we believed the ridge started the fog lifted and the ridge and the saddle at the end was made fully visible in all its rough and stony glory. What a relief. The views over the Molenaars river valley, the N1 and Du Toits Peak (1995m) were stupendous. There were many bases down the ridge to the saddle and each base was placed so that it could be visible from the preceding base so the scouts would not move off the ridge and get into difficulty. By this stage there was no longer a path or a route marked by cairns.

Fast scout teams who caught up with the judge placement party by this stage, started to drop back as they had to complete the bases, allowing the judges to proceed without the pressure of knowing scout teams are close on their heels.



rayner trophy

Once completing the patrol song base at the saddle it was a short scramble to the right down to the Kromriver valley path, for a base plotting STA and phonetic alphabet base. The intention from there was to proceed down the Kromriver valley to the confluence with the Molenaars river and proceed down the Molenaars river to cross at a pool where an underwater kims game was to be held. However, upon arrival the pool had become a raging torrent since being there a fortnight previous, and we had to relocate the base to a river bridge further downstream where it was easy to cross.

From this last base we walked up the old du Toits kloof pass, through the haunted old tunnel and into a large car park where the closing ceremony was held on time with all 21 teams and 30 judges safely off the mountain.

POSITION	TEAM NAME	MARK
1	1st Pinelands A	398
2	1st Bergvliet	397
3	6th Rondebosch	395
4	2nd Bergvliet	386
5	Fish Hoek Rangers	368
6	1st Somerset West B/1st Hermanus	366
7	1st Somerset West A	365
8	1st Claremont	346
9	2nd Fish Hoek	343
10	1st Pinelands B	324
11	9/16 Cape Town	323
11	1st Claremont/1st Pinelands	323
13	1st Hout Bay A	309
14	1st Muizenberg	308
15	1st Durbanville B	294
16	1st George	281
17	1st George Rangers	276
18	1st Durbanville A	269
19	2nd Plumstead	262
20	2nd Hout Bay B	216
21	1st Belvedere	213

Congratulations to 1st Pinelands, 1st Bergvliet and 6th Rondebosch who came in first, second and third respectively. Thanks to all those judges who assisted and to Thomas Schrick who kept them sustained with lunch packs, a hearty supper and good breakfast. A special thanks goes to Selwyn Moskovitz , Cape Nature and Kuba Miszewski, for arranging and allowing us unfettered access to their properties. To the scout teams we hope you all had adventure and fun, and take back what



you have learnt and experienced back to your troops for next year.

To all the scouters in the Western Cape, set yourselves a stretch goal by stepping up to the plate to volunteer as a chief

judge for the Rayner or the other regional competitions, its very rewarding and provides a very tangible sense of achievement.

Conrad Thomas - Rayner Chief Judge

Ed. See <https://www.facebook.com/Rayner-Trophy-298090653570356> for many photos from the Rayner 2021

rayner trophy



recruitment campaign

During 2020 the Helderberg District saw a rather sharp decline in Cub numbers due to Cubs moving up into the various Troops. Due to COVID-19 there was very little chance to actively promote Scouting due to the uncertainty which was being faced.

Many groups were finding their feet with the "new" way of Scouting face-to-face and to take new members on at the end of 2020 was a task many were not yet ready to tackle.

2021 was a different ball game. The Packs were eager to get their numbers up as they had adjusted to the new regulations. 1st Stellenbosch was the first to send out their standard flyer towards the end of February and their numbers more than doubled in just 3 short weeks – they are now sporting a full Pack! 1st Strand requested for something similar to be made available to additional schools.

We followed Stellenbosch's lead and created a more generic flyer which was sent to various schools and which was also placed in our local paper. There was immediate interest and we are now monitoring how many of those interested are invested into the movement.

Valeska Gruenbaum – DC Helderberg

are you up for the scouting challenge?



be prepared

SCOUTS
South Africa

1ST STELLENBOSCH SCOUTS
CUBS (7-11 Years old) - Derek Moss
082 563 0722, derek@derekmoss.co.za
SCOUTS (11-18 Years old) - Carl Rhode
082 875 8756, cr.rhode@gmail.com

Scouts1stStellenbosch@gmail.com
0860 SCOUTS (0860 726887)
info@scouting.org.za
www.scouting.org.za
www.facebook.com/SAScout
[@SAScout](https://twitter.com/SAScout)

Cubs aged 7 – 11yrs and Scouts aged 11 – 18yrs:

are you up for the scouting challenge?



1ST Strand – cubs@strandscouts.org.za OR gavin@willock.co.za
1ST Somerset West – 1stsomersetwestscouts@gmail.com
2nd Somerset West – carolmackay@hotmail.com OR wmackay54@gmail.com
1ST Gordon's Bay – 1stgbaycubs@gmail.com or lea.steenberg@parexel.com

hawequas

Hawequas never stops – we continue with improvements and maintenance.

One of our big projects lasting a few years already, is to get all of our existing building plans approved. We are now in the final stages of this process with Drakenstein



Municipality and hopefully all our plans will be passed by the end of the month. This will be the trigger to get the Terrace Camp sites ablation block finished!

Our Buchu is doing very well, now growing upwards, having spent most of the year putting roots down. In the next planting season we will be filling in where plants did not make it and where seed was planted that did not germinate.



At this time of the year we have to prepare for winter rains, which means doing maintenance to the roads and drainage – our good men Arnold and Jakob have been very busy on top of the normal lawn cutting, irrigation etc.

Our first course since lockdown started is the very popular Cook badge course, with all Covid protocols in place and with each participant sleeping in their own tent!

Hawequas has 20 two man tents, which can be rented to those coming to camp, so do come and camp/enjoy at your Ad-



venture Centre!

Our Fynbos Restoration Project has slowed down during the very hot summer months but our team leader, John Wilson has plugged away with Arnold and Jakob giving a hand at times.

CapeNature supplies us with herbicide for no charge.

From May we are going to start a monthly "Alien Hack" Details will be sent soon – bring your troop, a patrol, a group of friends and help us with our Adventure Centre!



hawequas

The 6th Rondebosch Rover Crew are coming out in May to work for a few days on clearing small Pines.

John Wilson has donated a petrol lawn mower to Hawequas, seen here handing it over to Paddy. Thank-you John!

Kuba Miszewski – Hawequas Manager



smc kalk bay caves

On 10 October 2020, a group of adult leaders and senior scouts met with the Cape Speleological Society to explore the Kalk Bay caves. After a short but steep ascent, the group started exploring Lower Aladdin, Wizard's Cell, Oriad Halls, Boomslang, and Clovelly Cave. The recent rains made the crawling very muddy, and the abrasive sand soon saw many people wishing that they had brought knee pads!

It was an interesting experience, and the Cape Speleological Society is available to be contacted by anyone who would like a guided tour of the Cape's cave networks.

Peter Otzen - Regional Coordinator Land Activities



smc hut

The SMC hut committee has been in operation for the last 21 years and has worked closely with the Regional management team to bring it up to its current high standard.

Continuous and regular maintenance weekends have lead the team to the hut to repair reported damage, mow the grounds and keep the plumbing, solar power up and running. The hut enjoys high usage and is in excellent condition.

Thomas Schrick - SMC Hut Committee

Ed. The hut is situated in a unique setting on the back plateau of Table Mountain. It is very popular and excellent maintenance is carried out by the Maintenance Committee. We are currently operating at 4 members using the hut at the same time under Covid rules so income has been impacted, but we still have use of the facility nevertheless. It serves as a safe overnight spot for scout hike parties, and is a key asset to the Region.



sea scout regatta



A celebratory atmosphere prevailed at the first Regatta of 2021 and there is no wonder since it is the first Regatta to take place in over a year! With 13 Boats on the water, the Sea Scout Base was full of cheer and camaraderie.

Junior and Senior Scouts took to the water to test their skills against each other at Pulling and Sailing. Some of the Scouts were a little rusty but nevertheless they were thrilled to be out on the water which is the best place to learn. It would not be a Regatta without some capsizing and a collision or two with the trusty Safety Boat close at hand. Congratulations to 2nd Bergvliet for Junior Pulling, 1st Bergvliet for Senior Pulling, 1st Plumstead for both Junior and Senior Sailing and 1st Bergvliet for taking the Binnacle! The 2nd Regatta is scheduled to take place on 6 June.

Angela Lee-Wright - SGL 1st Muizenberg



smc disa gorge

We live in a truly beautiful place, and 12 of us got to explore Constantia Corner and Orange Kloof with Aussie and Jason Raad on Saturday 27 March 2021.

Our route starting at Constantia Nek took us up past Eagles Nest, up Constantia Corner with lovely views back over Hout Bay and over the Constantia Winelands and Cape Flats towards Somerset West. We headed up the mountain past Camel Rock and on to De Villiers Dam which is rather empty at present. We then headed off the jeep track into Ash Valley and past the Old Scout Hut en route to the current Scout Hut. We decided to pop past to say hello to the dedicated team who had arrived on Friday night to effect repairs and get stuck in to maintenance requirements. They were hard at work, well, actually on a tea break when we arrived, but had been hard at work all morning. The hut is looking amazing and we need to send out a big thank you for the effort they put in to this project.

As we headed to the hut venturing along the Hely Hutchinson Dam wall (well, some of us took a stroll along the wall), we found a wonderful gentleman who happened to have keys for the museum. Yes, there is a museum up there, so lots you can do with your groups in addition to hiking and enjoying the breathtaking scenery. The museum is only opened on request, so you need to get that request in if you'd like to pop inside. The museum was opened up for us and we had a lovely detour (out of the wind and rain) looking at the wonderful collection of artefacts there from when the dams were built.

Goodbyes were all said at the hut and photos taken, and we headed off to the Woodhead Dam wall to start our descent through Orange Kloof. You need permit to hike through this section of the reserve and it is well worth getting hold of one. The Valley with the Disa River running through its gorge is truly beautiful and flora that you won't find anywhere else in the world. If you happen to have a botanist or fynbos expert with you, well, that would be a bonus I'm sure.

This was a wonderful opportunity to meet other adults in the movement, share stories and experiences, and for some, to explore new hiking routes that they can share with scouts and cubs in their groups. Scout groups represented included 1st Bergvliet, 1st Pinelands, 1st Durbanville, 9/16th Cape Town, 1st Montevista, 2nd Hout Bay, 2nd Kenridge, 2nd Plumstead and 6th Rondebosch.

Catherine Williams - ATS 2nd Hout Bay



paint the peaks purple



October is traditionally the month that the Western Cape Region 'paints the Lion purple' by hiking up Lion's Head each week in the month, but due to the Covid complications this couldn't happen in 2020. Instead, various peaks were painted purple by individual or groups of Scouts and adult leaders. Purple gear was spotted on many local peaks in the Cape and as far afield as the Giant's Cup trail in the Drakensberg. Congratulations to all those who were presented with their certificates for climbing three or more peaks while wearing purple!

Peter Otzen - Regional Coordinator Land Activities

smc search and rescue

Western Cape Scouts is partnering with the Mountain Club of SA's Cape Town Section Search & Rescue Team.

On September 13 2020, a small patrol of SCOUTS SA adult leaders met with the MCSA S&R team at Cecilia Forest to explore a relationship between the two organisations. A short demonstration of equipment was done, as well as a grid-pattern search usually used to locate a missing person. It was immediately apparent that the Scouts were comfortable in the outdoors and with the ropes and equipment, and a more formal arrangement started. Since the start of 2021, a large group of SCOUTS SA adult leaders meets on a monthly basis with the MCSA S&R training team (and other MCSA S&R members) to train in locations such as Higgovale Quarry and the Metro Rescue base in Ndabeni. Soon these probationary members will be accredited as Search & Rescue Mountaineers, and will be able to progress further with their S&R skills, as well as using Scout skills to provide an invaluable service to the Western Cape outdoor community.



Peter Otzen - Regional Coordinator Land Activities

smc suicide gorge

Suicide Gorge is one of the more adventurous and extreme kloofing and hiking routes available in the Western Cape. Located in the Hottentots Holland nature reserve, the route leads roughly eight kilometres from the start, along a jeep track for most of the way, and through a large portion of pristine Fynbos. On 20 February 2021, to celebrate Founder's Day, a group of adult leaders and senior scouts belonging to the Scout Mountain Club hiked this route, led by Francois Retief, a professional guide and owner of Pebble Sky Adventures. Once the hiking aspect was completed, the group was challenged to jump down various increasing heights into the mountain pools below. Not for the faint hearted, the jumps start at 3m, and progress steadily over several jumps to roughly 15m. Some jumps can be skirted, while others are unavoidable and commit one to the remainder of the adventure! The route is interspersed by bum slides and in one case, a face-forward slide, and some long downhill traverses holding onto ropes. This is a very good senior scout activity, and more can be found on the Cape Nature website. The Hottentots Holland reserve has many good hiking routes, as well as overnight huts, which are well suited to patrol, troop, or advancement hikes.

Peter Otzen - Regional Coordinator Land Activities



new springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:

Aidan Klein	2nd Rondebosch
Dean van Schoor	1st Durbanville
James le Roux	1st Hermanus
Kerryn Bosch	1st Muizenberg
Kyra Williss	2nd Somerset West
Liam Bennet	2nd Somerset West
Max Cameron Elsworth	2nd Fish Hoek
Nicholas MacDonald	1st Bergvliet
Oliver Murphy	1st Durbanville
Robyn Rainier-Pope	6th Rondebosch
Sophia Kluifhout	2nd Bergvliet



rover news



On 18 December 1 2021, 300 shacks were burnt down in the Masiphumelele informal settlement in Kommetjie - displacing 4000 people.

The 6th Rondebosch Rovers Rover Crew were at Living Hope helping to pack food and hygiene parcels for those affected - from all the donations received.



The Rover Crew has been busy helping out at SANCCOB sea bird sanctuary.

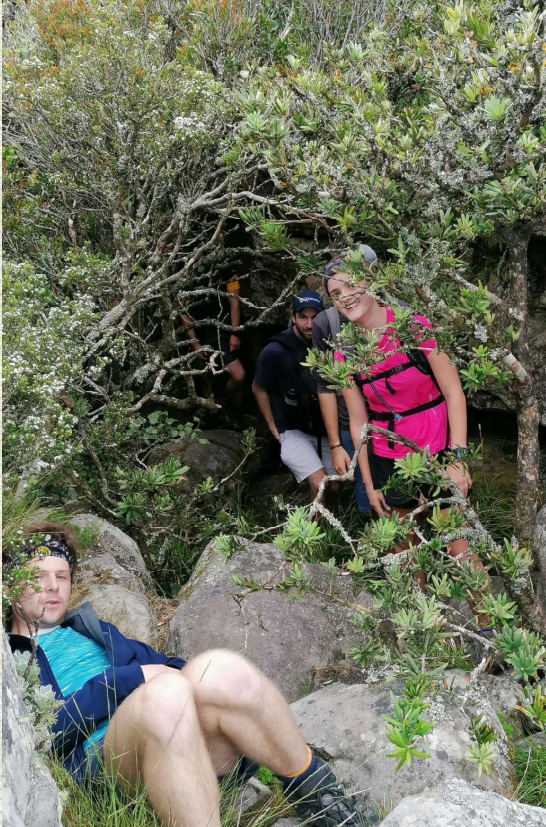
Over 1500 baby cormorants were abandoned by their parents - so lots of work to do looking after them.



smc twelve apostles

On 14 November 2020, Fr. Charles Prince led an early morning hike up the Twelve Apostles. The route led along the pipe track, up Corridor Ravine, and into Tranquillity Cracks. After a short break the team headed down Woody Ravine, and in true Fr. Charles style, were finished before the end of the morning!

Peter Otzen - Regional Coordinator Land Activities



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